

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-13, 15-26, 29-35 and 37-41 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 23, 29, 31, 35, 37 and 39 have been amended, and claims 7, 8, 14, 27, 28 and 36 have been canceled. No new matter has been added to this application.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Applicants have amended Figure 1 to include a "Prior Art" legend. Applicants have amended the specification to remove reference to Figure 11C and to reference numeral 120. Applicants have further amended Figures 23 and 27 to correct various informalities. Applicants are submitting herewith a marked up copy of Figures 1, 23 and 27 for the Examiner's approval. Upon approval from the Examiner, Applicants will submit corresponding corrected formal drawings for these figures. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Objection to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification because of a spelling error on page 54. Applicants have amended the specification at page 54 to correct the spelling error and request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 28-34 and 36-39 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of any base claim and intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 8 and intervening claim 7. Applicants have also amended independent claim 13 to include the limitations of allowable claim 14. Applicants have

amended independent claim 23 to include the limitations of allowable claim 28 and intervening claim 27. Applicants have also amended allowable claim 31 to place it in independent form and claim 35 to place claim 35 in independent form and to include the limitations of allowable claim 36. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, place the application in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1-6, 10-12, 23-26, 35, 40 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 10-12, 23-26, 35, 40 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,028,912 (Navab). The Examiner contends that Navab discloses Applicants' invention as claimed. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As indicated above, Applicants have amended claims 1, 23 and 35 to include the allowable limitations of claims 8, 28 and 36 respectively. Claims 2-6, 10-12, 24-26 and 40-41, being dependent upon independent claims 1, 23 and 35 respectively are also in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-6, 10-12, 23-26, 35, 40 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-6, 10-13, 16-26, 35 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 10-13, 16-26, 35 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) as being anticipated by Benedicte Bascle et al. Needle Placement under X-Ray Fluoroscopy using Perspective Invariants, IEEE Workshop on Mathematical Methods in Biomedical Image Analysis Proceedings, June 11-12, 2000, pages 46-53. The Examiner contends that Bascle discloses Applicants' invention as claimed. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As indicated above, Applicants have amended claims 1, 13, 23 and 35 to include the allowable limitations of claims 8, 14, 28 and 36 respectively. Claims

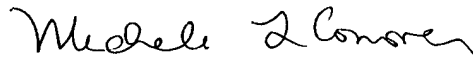
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2-6, 10-12, 16-22, 24-26 and 40-41, being dependent upon independent claims 1, 13, 23 and 35 respectively are also in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-6, 10-12, 23-26, 35, 40 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6, 9-13, 15-26, 29-35 and 37-41, as amended, are in condition for allowance and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should he have any questions in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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